



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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India

FAIRS Product Specific

Parliamentary Committee Invitees Comments on the Seeds Bill

2005

Approved by:

Chad R. Russell

U.S. Embassy, New Delhi

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Report Highlights:

The Seed Bill, 2004, was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture for examination and report. On May 10, 2005, the Committee invited written comments and suggestions from various stakeholders, which are due on June 9.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

Introduction: This report summarizes the recent official press communiqué by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (Committee) inviting comments and suggestions on the Seeds Bill 2004 (<http://pib.nic.in/release/release.asp?relid=9132&kwd>). The Seeds Bill 2004 was introduced in the *Rajya Sabha* (upper house of Parliament) on December 9, 2004, but was referred to the Committee for further examination. On May 10, 2005, the Committee invited written comments from various stakeholders including agricultural universities, government and private seed companies, scientists, experts, farmers' organizations, non-government organizations, and other interested groups (both Indian and foreign). The memoranda submitted to the Committee would form part of the records of the Committee and treated as strictly confidential. Persons desiring to submit memoranda to the Committee may send two copies thereof in a sealed envelope, indicating whether they are also interested in giving oral evidence to:

Mr. Devender Singh
Director
Lok Sabha Secretariat
Room #413
Parliament House Annex
New Delhi – 110 001
Phone: 91-11-2303441
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Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural exports to India.

Type of Regulation:	NA
Important Dates:	
Publication Date:	May 10, 2005
Effective Date:	NA
Final Date for Comments:	June 9, 2005
Products Affected:	Planting seeds
Agency in Charge:	Lok Sabha Secretariat

Proposed Changes:

The Seed Bill, 2004, provides for the constitution of a separate Registration Sub-Committee to look after various aspects related to the registration and maintenance of a National Register of Seeds. The Bill also seeks to curb the sale of spurious and poor-quality seeds, and to provide compensation to affected farmers. It intends to increase private participation in seed production, distribution, certification, and testing, besides imposing stringent penalties for non-compliance with the rules and regulations. The proposed legislation aims to liberalize the import of seeds and planting materials, to make India's regulations compatible with the World Trade Organization commitments. It would also replace the existing Seeds Act from 1966. The full text of the proposed Seeds Bill, 2004, is available at: http://agricoop.nic.in/seeds/seeds_bill.htm

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